

CONTACT MY OFFICE TODAY!

Harrisonburg Office

70 N Mason St, Suite 110 | Harrisonburg, VA 22802
Phone: (540) 432-2391 | Fax: (540) 857-2675

Lynchburg Office

916 Main St, Suite 300 | Lynchburg, VA 24504
Phone: (434) 845-8306 | Fax: (540) 857-2675

Roanoke Office

10 Franklin Rd SE, Suite 510 | Roanoke, VA 24011
Phone: (540) 857-2672 | Fax: (540) 857-2675

Staunton Office

117 S Lewis St, Suite 215 | Staunton, VA 24401
Phone: (540) 885-3861 | Fax: (540) 857-2675

U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
PUBLIC DOCUMENT • OFFICIAL BUSINESS
PAID FOR BY OFFICIAL FUNDS AUTHORIZED BY THE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

Ben Cline
PRSRT STD M.C.

"The Father of our Country, George Washington, said it best:
'Agriculture is the most healthful, most useful, and most noble
employment of man' and in an address to Congress he went on
to say that 'It will not be doubted that with reference either to
individual or national welfare, agriculture is of primary importance.'
Since coming to Congress, I continue to uphold the standard
set by our Nation's First President."

Ben

For more information about what Congressman Cline is doing
for Virginia farmers, visit: cline.house.gov

For Federal resources for farmers, visit:
www.farmers.gov/working-with-us/program-deadlines



cline.house.gov

*The Sixth Congressional District of Virginia is home to more than
8,000 farms and is the number one agricultural district in the
Commonwealth. Therefore, it is paramount that we never abandon
our farm families and continue to improve conditions from the farm
gate to the dinner plate."*

Ben

An Agriculture Update by U.S. Congressman Ben Cline



cline.house.gov

Working to Find Common Ground

Congressman Cline is committed to working across the aisle to find solutions that benefit Sixth District farmers. That is why he has joined several bipartisan caucuses that strive to address the issues facing the agriculture industry. Learn more below about several of the ag-related caucuses of which Congressman Cline is a member.

Congressional FFA Caucus – The Congressional FFA Caucus is a bipartisan, bicameral group of Representatives and Senators dedicated to issues related to the next generation of agriculture leaders and students pursuing careers in agriculture, food, natural resources, and related sciences.

Rural Broadband Caucus – The Rural Broadband Caucus is a bipartisan House Caucus founded in 2016. The bipartisan initiative facilitates discussion, educates Members of Congress and staff, and develops policy solutions to the digital divide that exists in rural America.

Chicken Caucus – The Congressional Chicken Caucus serves as a formal group of members whose mission is to educate members of Congress and others about the history, contributions, and issues of importance to US chicken producers, pertaining to food safety, international trade, labor, animal welfare, immigration, and environmental issues, among others.

Small Brewers Caucus – In order to recognize the important place that America's small brewers hold in our communities and their unique contributions to our culture and economy, the House of Representatives formed the House Small Brewers Caucus in 2007. The Caucus provides a forum in which Members and staff can learn about the science and art of beer and brewing as well as the relevant business, regulatory and societal issues.

Ag Tour

Congressman Cline recently embarked on a farm tour of the Shenandoah Valley and was joined by Ranking Member of the House Committee on Agriculture, Glenn "GT" Thompson (PA-15). A few of the stops included the Virginia Horse Center in Lexington, The Cyrus McCormick Farm in Raphine, Cave View Farms in Weyers Cave, CrossKeys Vineyards in Mt. Crawford, and Valley Pike Farm in Broadway. Ranking Member Thompson was traveling throughout the United States to get input from local producers in rural districts as the House prepares to draft the next Farm Bill, which expires in 2023. Congress must ensure that the needs of Virginia's farms and farmers are addressed in the next Farm Bill to ensure their success, and Rep. Cline looks forward to continuing his regular conversations with producers across the region.



An Agriculture Update

by U.S. Congressman Ben Cline

What Congress Can Do

Congress can aid our farmers and producers by cutting bureaucratic red tape, expanding access to rural broadband, and passing legislation that keeps more money in their pockets. To that end, Congressman Cline has supported the below bills to ensure rural America is not left behind.

H.R. 1712, Death Tax Repeal Act: repeals the death tax to protect small family businesses and farms from unfair federal taxes on their assets. The current burden of the death tax leads many family businesses and farms to be shut down to pay off the tax bill, killing multi-generational farms and businesses that strengthen our local economies.

H.R. 3369, Broadband for Rural America Act: provides additional resources to ensure program integrity and improve administration. The bill also authorizes new grants to assist communities in confirming broadband availability maps and provides technical assistance to rural communities and service providers. The bill was endorsed by the American Farm Bureau Federation, NTCA – The Rural Broadband Association, National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, National Milk Producers Federation, and many others.

H.Res. 932, National FFA Week Resolution: designates February 19-26, 2022, as National FFA Week, recognizing the importance of the National FFA Organization in developing the next generation of leaders by developing students for premier leadership, personal growth, and career success through agricultural education.

H.R. 4140, Butcher Block Act: authorizes the Secretary of Agriculture to establish a Rural Development grant program to award grants used to expand business and career opportunities within livestock and meat processing facilities. This bill also provides technical assistance for new and expanded livestock or meat processors to further competitive markets and facilitate value-added opportunities for livestock producers.

H.R. 3835, Processing Revival and Intrastate Meat Exemption (PRIME) Act: gives individual states the freedom to permit the intrastate distribution of custom-slaughtered meat such as beef, pork, or lamb to consumers, restaurants, hotels, boarding houses, and grocery stores.

H.R. 1816, Whole Milk for Healthy Kids Act of 2021: authorizes that all types of milk be offered to students in schools that participate in the National School Lunch Program.



Advocating For Our Farmers

Along with the many legislative actions Congressman Cline has taken, he has also written to federal officials expressing his support for policies that benefit farmers and rural America. A summary of several of these letters can be found below.

Letter to U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) on Small Meat Processors – advocates for more meat inspectors. Without more meat inspectors, small and independent processors cannot help the supply chain problem. If small and independent processors want to make headway into the market, they need access to more inspectors so they can quickly and safely get their products to market. The letter was supported by the American Association of Meat Processors.

Wrote to Environmental Protection Agency on Dicamba Usage – discusses the importance of continued access to over-the-top application of Dicamba for farmers. The letter calls attention to several issues concerning Dicamba including EPA's suspect source of data complaint reports for off-target damage; likely use of double-counted complaint reports; Agency's inaction in defending their registration and approval of over-the-top application of the products; and poor timing of such action as farmers have already prepared for the rapidly approaching crop year and planting time with producers already facing shortages of other alternatives.

Urged EPA Administrator Regan and Acting Assistant Secretary of the Army Pinkham against redefining Waters of the United States (WOTUS) – advocates against revising the definition of WOTUS. President Trump's Navigable Waters Protection Rule provided long-overdue certainty and clarity for landowners affected by the scope of WOTUS' jurisdiction - revising the definition is a step backward that will return farmers and ranchers to regulatory confusion.



Farm Bill

Congressman Cline is fighting for policy initiatives that benefit our Nation's farms. The 2018 Farm Bill is set to expire in 2023 and is the essential piece of legislation that connects farmers to consumers from the farm to the table. The policies of House Agriculture Committee Democrats have delayed the oversight process for the 2018 Farm Bill implementation process. As the committee begins diving into these discussions, Members will be able to outline the priorities for the 2023 Farm Bill as they move closer to negotiations. Farmers and their families are the backbone of our Nation, and the upcoming Farm Bill is a chance to support rural communities through focusing on reliable broadband deployment, supply chain resiliency, and lowering input costs, while stopping government overreach and taking viable farmland out of production.

As your advocate in Washington, Congressman Cline will continue to support local farmers and ranchers by ensuring that farmers have access to the supplies they need, have a seat at the table when discussing conservation efforts as farmers are the best stewards of the land, and working to open the markets for all commodities, especially dairy.

Agriculture and food industries confront new challenges every day, but through local input, Rep. Cline can work to ensure that Virginia's Sixth District farms can continue feeding and clothing the world for generations to come. Please reach out to Rep. Cline's office to discuss your priorities for the 2023 Farm Bill.

Trade Deals

The agriculture industry is in need of greater market access opportunities globally. The Biden Administration's policies have put many of the United States' trade negotiations on hold across the world, and as your Representative, Ben Cline has been working to ensure trade agreements, like the USMCA and China "Phase One" Agreement, are enforced and that all of the agriculture benefits from the purchase commitments made through these hard-fought negotiations are honored.

The Phase One agreement reflects a historic achievement to hold the People's Republic of China (PRC) accountable for its history of predatory trade and market-distorting practices: to date, the PRC is \$16 billion behind in its commitment to U.S. agricultural purchases. Unfortunately, this Administration has a trade agenda devoid of details and strategy, as seen in the most recent U.S. Trade Representative (USTR) Report to Congress on China's World Trade Organization (WTO) Compliance.

Furthermore, the President has not yet filled two integral roles: Chief Agricultural Negotiator at USTR and Under Secretary of Trade and Foreign Agricultural Affairs at USDA. This limits the Administration's ability to implement an effective campaign of pressure on the Chinese, setting our producers and consumers up for adverse wage and economic effects, and reducing economic activity across multiple industries.

Long-term, reliable market access for our producers is important to our place on the world stage, our national security, and our competitiveness. Rep. Cline will continue working to be proactive on trade to prioritize trade deals that would yield net positive benefits for farmers across the country, specifically in our district.



cline.house.gov